

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONORING UNIVERSITY OF TENNESSEE WOMEN'S BASKETBALL COACH PAT SUMMITT

HON. DAVID P. ROE

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 25, 2012

Mr. ROE of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor University of Tennessee women's basketball coach Pat Summitt for her hard work, courage, and perseverance. Pat, like me, is from Clarksville, Tennessee. We share a love for basketball, and it has been an honor to watch her lead the Lady Vols for nearly forty years. Pat's commitment to excellence has resulted in almost 1,100 wins, making her the winningest basketball coach in NCAA history.

What is most impressive about Pat isn't her .840 winning percentage or her eight national championships. Nor is it her ability to run laps with, and sometimes around, her teams, or the intense stare that I am sure is still burned into the minds of some of the ladies on her 1974 inaugural team. What impresses me most about Pat is the way she does everything in her life with heart and to the best of her ability. When she announced her condition last August, I was impressed both by her courage to fight Alzheimer's in a very public way, as well as her leadership in founding the Pat Summitt Foundation Fund. According to the Alzheimer's Association, 5.4 million Americans are currently living with Alzheimer's. By sharing her story, Pat has undoubtedly helped to bring awareness to this disease. I'd be one sorry fan if I didn't also point out that, despite her condition, last season Pat still led the Lady Vols to the NCAA tournament.

Pat Summitt has left the UT community with an amazing legacy and I have no doubt she will continue to faithfully serve the University in her new role as head coach emeritus. I also look forward to seeing great things from her son, Tyler, as he follows in his mother's footsteps. My thoughts and prayers are with Pat and Tyler as they move forward on this journey together.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JIM GERLACH

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 25, 2012

Mr. GERLACH. Mr. Speaker, unfortunately, on April 24, 2012, I missed one recorded vote on the House floor. I ask that the RECORD reflect that had I been present, I would have voted "aye" on Rollcall 178.

CONGRATULATIONS TO COMBAT MEDICAL SYSTEMS

HON. RENEE L. ELLMERS

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 25, 2012

Mrs. ELLMERS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to offer my congratulations to the Men and Women of Combat Medical Systems on the opening of their new office in Fayetteville, North Carolina.

One year ago this month, Fayetteville suffered from a sudden and devastating outbreak of tornadoes. These storms ripped through our region and caused horrendous damage to homes, businesses, and personal property. I was told of the bravery of their staff and President, Corey Russ, who, as a retired Delta Force medic, began treating casualties and handing out thousands of dollars of company equipment to strangers so that they could help others in the area and transport casualties to nearby hospitals.

One year later, our communities continue to rebuild and we can take pride in the new homes and buildings that have been erected. We must continue to remember the individuals that perished in this disaster and honor their legacy through the care and rebuilding of our community.

Combat Medical Systems and its employees show the dedication and determination we all aspire to as we rebuild and survive in the face of unforeseen obstacles. This courage embodies the spirit of our nation and fuels our economy. I commend them on their willingness to give back to the community and on the successes they have rightly earned.

Again, I congratulate them on the opening of their new office. May God bless them, their families, and our great nation.

AUJANAE VALDEZ

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 25, 2012

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Aujanæ Valdez for receiving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. Aujanæ Valdez is a 12th grader at Jefferson Senior High and received this award because her determination and hard work have allowed her to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Aujanæ Valdez is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Aujanæ Valdez for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award.

I have no doubt she will exhibit the same dedication and character in all her future accomplishments.

HONORING ROBERTA ROPER

HON. STENY H. HOYER

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 25, 2012

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor the work of a remarkable woman from Maryland, Roberta Roper, and to express to her the appreciation felt by so many across our state and throughout the country.

In 1982, Roberta and her family faced their darkest days when they learned that their daughter, Stephanie—a talented artist and college student—had been kidnapped, raped, and murdered. While struggling with her own personal pain and grief, Roberta learned that there were no supportive services for her and her family as they struggled with the loss of their daughter. Even more devastating was that the criminal justice system lacked the rights and support they needed as family members of a murder victim.

That same year, to honor the memory of their daughter and to address the inadequacies between the rights of a defendant and those of a victim of crime, Roberta and her husband, Vince, founded the Stephanie Roper Foundation. The Foundation's mission has been to provide supportive services to crime victims across Maryland for thirty years. They also established the Stephanie Roper Committee, the Foundation's legislative arm, which has resulted in over sixty laws enacted to create new or improved crime-victim rights and services.

With Roberta's active encouragement, the Maryland General Assembly created the State Board of Victim Services in 1988. This Board offers recommendations to the legislature and to the Governor on matters concerning state and local efforts to assist victims of crime. In 1994, Roberta was appointed as Chair of the Board, a position she held until her retirement last October.

In 2002, the Foundation merged with the Maryland Crime Victim Resource Center, a one-stop, statewide non-profit that provides victim services, crisis assistance, legal help, victim notification, financial help, social services, and links to national victim resources.

Roberta's activism since her daughter's tragic death in 1982 led her to so many important accomplishments benefitting my home state. These include the creation of the Maryland Victims of Crime Fund, legislation ensuring victims and their families a place in the courtroom and a voice during the sentencing process, the creation of new support and services for victims and their loved ones, as well as the ratification of an amendment to the Maryland Constitution guaranteeing crime victims the right to be informed, present, and heard throughout the investigatory and judicial process.

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.